



EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Three Rivers, MI

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace) to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years) to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Three Rivers for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. The city is located in northeastern St. Joseph County at the confluence of the Rocky, Portage, and St. Joseph Rivers. Three Rivers (population 7,464) is comprised of 3.8 square miles along the Michigan-Indiana border, about 20 miles south of Kalamazoo. Nearly 40 percent of Three Rivers' occupied housing was built prior to 1939 and much of the housing stock is dilapidated or substandard. About 21 percent of the city's total population live below the poverty level.

The Pilot targets brownfields properties within the limits of Three Rivers. Targeted sites, which already have been identified, include a former metal foundry, former dry cleaners, and former plating company. The targeted sites have negatively affected surrounding communities. Many are adjacent to residential neighborhoods that grew up around industries that no longer exist. Some identified brownfields are in highly visible parts of downtown Three Rivers and some vacant parcels have become targets for vandals.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Three Rivers, Michigan

Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets seven abandoned and potentially contaminated initial sites located in economically depressed and blighted areas of the City of Three Rivers.

Contacts:

City of Three Rivers
(616) 273-1075

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 5
(312) 886-7576

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot is part of Three Rivers's effort to redevelop economically distressed and blighted areas within the city. The redevelopment of these brownfields will help Three Rivers attract new jobs to the area, create opportunities for community investment, and enhance the health and sustainability of the community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Completing assessment of seven identified sites in need of immediate environmental evaluation to meet Michigan Department of Environmental Quality requirements and to capitalize on existing developer interest in several of these properties;
- Compiling an inventory of other brownfields sites in the city;
- Selecting priority sites from the inventory, based on established criteria; and
- Conducting Phase I environmental site assessments and following up, as appropriate, with Phase II environmental site assessments or Baseline Environmental Assessments (BEAs).

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.